Nation

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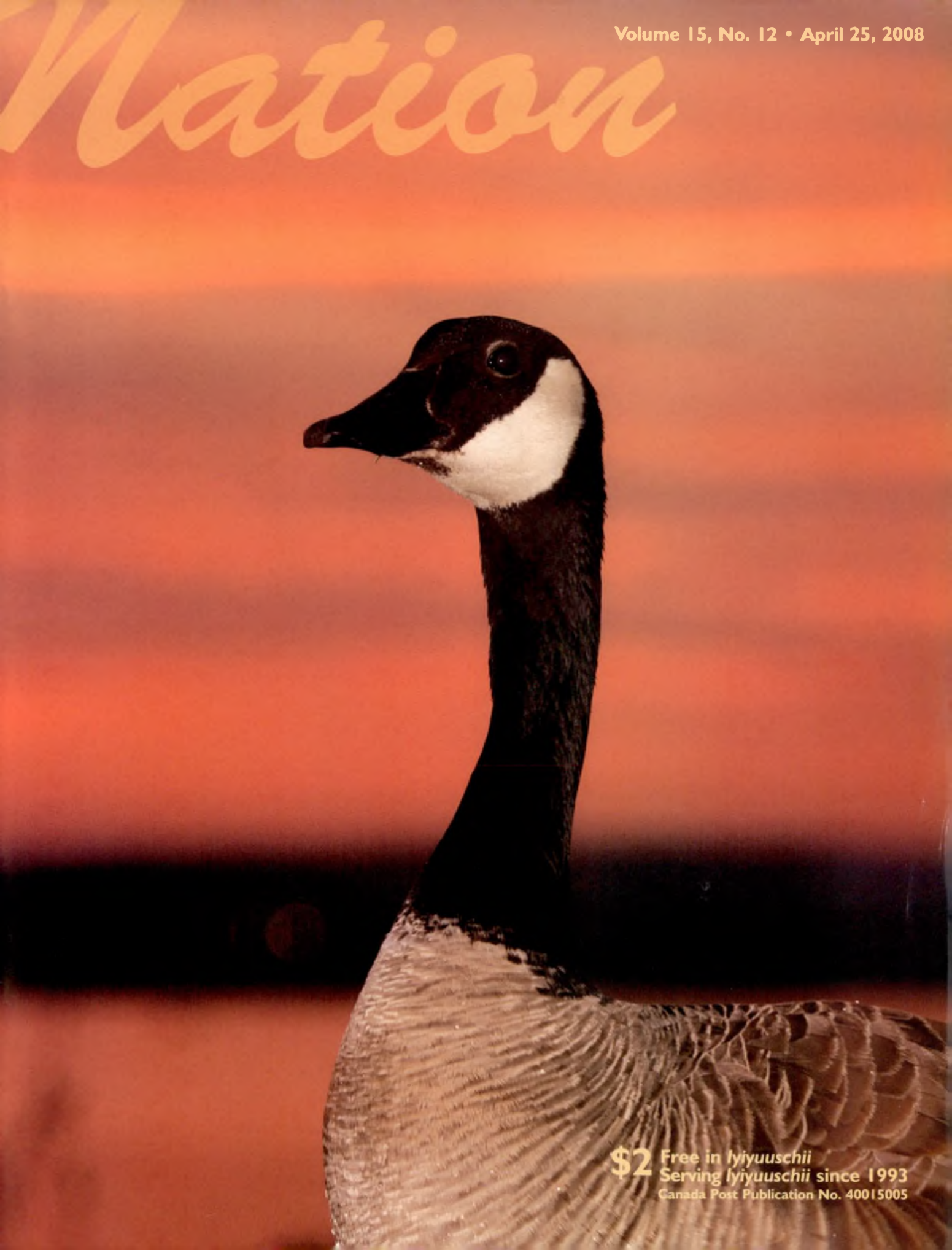

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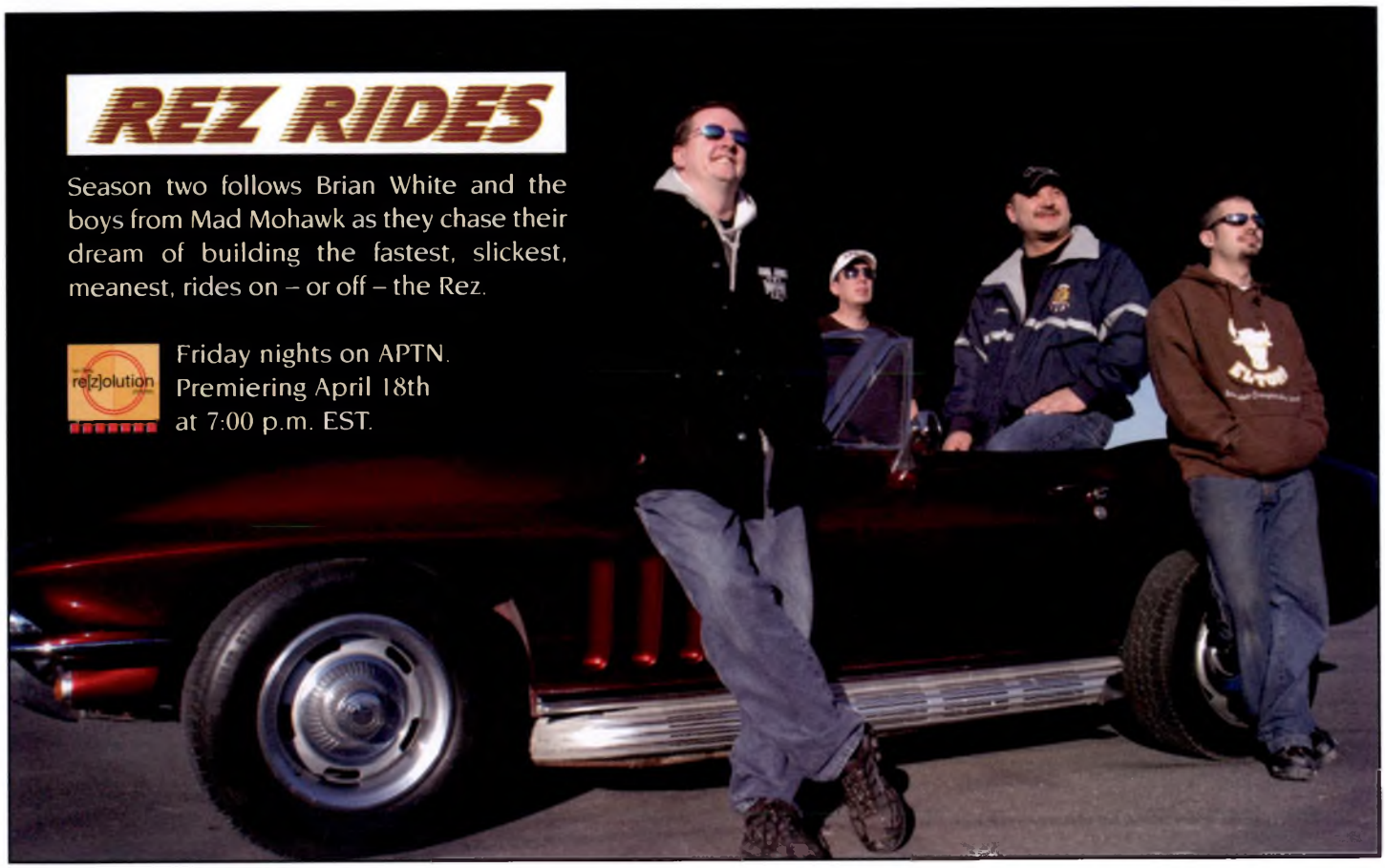
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First Nations First for Supplies and Services

editorial

UN Declaration Adopted

by Will Nicholls

There are those who talk about the benefits of a minority government. Usually you don't see the benefits as one of the problems is that they aren't around that long.

Just look at poor Joe Clark who lasted nine months less a day as Canada's Prime Minister. Clark's Finance Minister John Crosbie described it, "Long enough to conceive, just not long enough to deliver."

It was the opposite case recently when opposition parties came together to give the House of Commons' approval to the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Not only was the declaration passed but it mandates the government to implement the rights contained within the UN declaration.

Some of you will remember that Canada was one of the four countries to naysay the declaration despite promoting it before the change in government. The declaration had already taken more time than any other UN declaration to write and be accepted.

The contents had been watered down time and time again to make it acceptable to such countries as the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. This was mainly due to Canada telling Indigenous Peoples around the world this was the best they could expect according to some organizations.

Then Canada turned around with Stephen Harper becoming our Prime Minister and said "No!" Many Aboriginal Peoples felt betrayed. With some African countries saying Canada was tying aid to a vote against the declaration it was seen as a black eye for Canada's world reputation.

But then things are always surprising when you have a minority government. A NDP Member of Parliament spearheaded a bill to recognize and adopt the UN declaration and to implement it. It passed with all opposition parties endorsing the bill.

This shows the benefit of a minority government in its responsiveness to the views of all parties. It also shows that a minority government is more accountable to the desires of all Canadians, not just those who voted for them.

Of course the government is fighting implementing the bill using all the arguments they have used before. Meanwhile the lawyers working for First Nations in Canada are enjoying the possibilities. Land claims, treaties, agreements and recognition will be changed by this bill coming into force. That is why it is being delayed at the moment.

While all this is quite surprising and welcome to First Nations there is another twist.

Where is the news that this historic event happened? Look at any major news media outlet and ask where is the coverage? It is nowhere to be found and this should be very disturbing to any Canadian.

It shows without many doubts that the content of most major news sources is determined by political right-winged owners with their own agendas. This is a huge story that has the potential to have major impacts within Canadian society yet the mainstream news media ignored it and its implications for all Canadians.

This is more than a story falling by the wayside but one that shows the dangers of major sources of Canadian media owned by a few. If you remember the movie 1984, it addressed the dangers of state control of the media. It appears we are not to far from fiction becoming reality.

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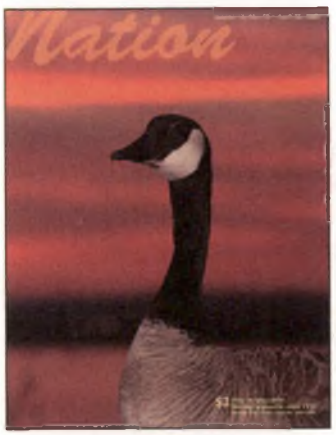

Happy Goose Break!

Decriminalizing the Indian

Our people have always had some sort of stigmatism, such as lazy drunken Indians, welfare recipients, and burdens to society. And this is often used as an excuse to garner more moolah from taxpayers to wrong rights and this becomes the state of mind for many who are familiar to past and present Aboriginal communities' problems with alcohol, especially for those who live on reserve and in many cases off reserve, namely: us.

Political climates of the past were mainly one-sided in favour of prohibition and the idea of mixing alcohol with an Indian to get more (in other words, get ripped-off drunk blind) for all kinds of negotiations; in the past for a few more sips of rum, the winner of the negotiation was the sober one, leaving some poor folks scratching their sore heads the next day wondering why that musket looked so rusty? It still happens today, folks, except now it's legitimized by arbitrary laws written up by your peers in the form of band by-laws.

For example, way back when Geronimo was around, signs were posted around areas where people could read (like the old West) worth crap, to not give Indians alcohol (amongst other things like access to capital and lawyers). It's like saying, don't feed the bears, they might get a little rowdy and rip your arm off for dessert if you do so.

Finally in the late 50s (or early 60s), Aboriginals could sip wine or beer in a bar without selling their band numbers to scrupulous tavern owners for a six-pack and 20 cigarettes. Now in today's world, the Indian is not looked at like a bear on a financial rip roar, but as your legal peer in a bar, but not on reserve.

Yet still today, you are guilty of breaking the law if associated with alcohol only, and often those associations come with baggage worthy of Bangladesh back in the day when we had to help them with the aid of the Beatles…wait a minute, I'm losing track here, but you know what I mean.

Up in the Great White North, where I live, a metre away my brethren Inuit can casually sip beer, whilst I must look over my shoulder for breaking the local zoo law for not feeding the bears lest they get rowdy.

But the reality is folks, that stigmatism is still reinforced vigorously in defense of the drunken Indian syndrome, when it is really about losing rights as an individual to make a conscious decision, to lose yourself in drunken stupour, because you're already guilty, or enjoy the freedoms that other Quebecers and Canadians enjoy, legitimately controlled by laws honed over centuries of drinking and enjoy yourself without hurting others.

Of course, drinking does have side effects if consumed excessively, but who would have to in a legal environment, does it affect everyone who doesn't have a choice, or those who do have a choice?

Whatever the case may be, I think it's high time that the Indian be decriminalized and de-stigmatized because it sure is hurting our image and esteem.

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Digging up the past

Residential school tribunal uses pressure tactics to locate mass graves

By Steve Bonspiel

The heat has been turned up on Ottawa and the Catholic, Anglican and United churches as a new group, called the International Human Rights Tribunal into Genocide in Canada (IHRTGC), has been launched as a response to the approximately 50,000 missing children's bodies from the dark days of the Indian Residential School genocide.

Reverend Kevin Annett, who has been fighting the churches and the federal government for many years, was on hand in Vancouver April 10 to unveil the sites of 28 mass graves. His aim was to shame the government and the churches into revealing how many bodies are buried under the grounds of the former schools.

"We formally announced (on April 15) that we are going to start sending people in the different communities to start gathering evidence," Annett said.

He is hoping that more people come forward with their stories and knowledge of potential illegal burial sites to continue on their journey for a final resting place for the missing kids.

He and the tribunal, made up of Native chiefs and Elders, are calling upon the United Nations to help uncover the bodies of children as young as four.

"In effect we're seeing this as an alternative to the government's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which we don't feel has the power to do an inquiry into this," he said.

On April 15, hailed by the group as the fourth Annual Aboriginal Holocaust Memorial Day, Annett and his group announced their plan to investigate and protect these sites from destruction and cover up.

They are currently in the process of documenting residential school survivors' stories on video.

"We are looking at getting all this information condensed into a report to be released in the fall," he said.

April 19 marked another milestone for the IHRTGC as they presented their list of alleged burial sites to the United Nations in New York City.

Annett's contacts at the U.N.'s Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues made a motion to try to make Canada accountable for its actions.

This past February, the Friends and Relatives of the Disappeared, another group Annett is part of, sent letters to the Queen, Ottawa and the heads of the three churches to come forward with their knowledge about the alleged mass murders and burial sites. They have not gotten a response.

"Even if people are put on trial it's a symbolic act because you can't try everyone. But we want to look at our own history and come clean with these things (through the Tribunal)," said Annett.

Annett's group also produced eyewitness Sylvester Greene, who told the media of his involvement with the burial of a young Inuit boy at the United Church's residential school in Edmonton in 1953.

"We were told never to tell anyone by the principal, who got me and three other boys to bury him," he said. "But a lot more kids got buried all the time in that big grave next to the school."

The Tribunal is hoping to "gather all of the evidence, including forensic remains to charge and indict those responsible for the deaths of the children buried therein."

A survey team has already uncovered a massive sink hole through detection devices that suggest a mass grave at the former Port Alberni Residential School site.

Annett said that local coroners have the power to declare these sites crime scenes and that the police would be compelled to investigate.

"THE PRINCIPAL GOT ME AND THREE OTHER BOYS TO BURY HIM. WE WERE TOLD NEVER TO TELL ANYONE. "

The Tribunal also said, "Once these persons have been identified and detained, they will be tried and sentenced in Indigenous courts of justice established by our Tribunal and under the authority of hereditary chiefs."

The Squamish Nation in B.C. is currently looking into creating a pseudo court system, based on traditional principles that would be given the power to convict those who committed crimes against the innocent children at the schools.

"It's a potential way of holding the Canadian courts accountable," he said. "Up until now, they have not made a ruling on genocide, so I think it might light a fire under them once they see that people are not going to wait for them."

Since launching the film "Hidden from History" in 2005 that looks into the atrocities and crimes committed during the residential school era, Reverend Annett has been on a mission to bring to justice those who abused their power over countless children through every form of abuse and mistreatment.

Annett will stop at nothing to bring these people to justice, although as the years go by, more and more of the priests and nuns responsible for the crimes against Aboriginal kids are passing away.

"In the last few years there has been real movement on this. We forced the government to admit children died and that there were mass graves," said Annett. "We're trying to make these institutions and the people that worked in them to be held accountable.

"I think it's moving in the right direction, we just have to keep applying the pressure."

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Seeking recognition

NDP pushing Canada to sign the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

By Amy German

On Monday, April 7, seven months after it was introduced and the rest of the world signed on, the New Democratic Party managed to get the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples before the House of Commons, a declaration the Conservative government is refusing to sign.

Three NDP party members – Jene Crowder, Irene Mathyesson and Paul Dewar – had motions to bring the declaration before the House but it was Mathyesson, the critic for the Status of Women, who managed to get it through in a concurrent motion.

Said Crowder, the NDP critic for Aboriginal Affairs, "Mathyesson did get the motion through the committee and what happens is, is that you can move what they call a concurrent motion which means it can be debated in the House for three hours. So on Monday Irene moved the motion, which meant that we were debating the fact that we were calling on Canada to support the UN declaration. After a three-hour debate on Monday, the vote was on Tuesday night. The House passed the motion but the Conservatives voted against it."

Though all of the opposition parties were in favour of Canada becoming a signatory of the bill, the Conservative government still won't budge. "In the past the Prime Minister has said that the House should honour the majority will of the House but they have clearly signalled that they don't intend to do that," said Crowder.

Through this however, the NDP has every intention of being persistent with the declaration and bringing it up in the House as often as possible.

"What they do is that they just completely disregard it. See the thing about the UN declaration and any other UN convention is that whether Canada becomes a signatory or not does not actually come to the House of Commons for a vote. The government can unilaterally come to whatever decision it wants to in this case and we have to support a majority of the House for it. The Conservatives decided not to be a signatory and so we are trying to pressure and shame them into becoming a signatory. My intention is to continue to raise this at every opportunity. This week, every time I got up to give a speech that was remotely related to Aboriginal interests, I have been inserting parts of the UN declaration into it and I will continue to do that," said Crowder.

The Conservative government has come up with many different excuses for not signing the declaration, indicating that the bill would interfere with current land claims. Now Crowder says public pressure is the way to go. "What we actually need is some pressure from the Canadian public to tell these guys to live up to their obligations. Writing the Prime Minister is the most effective way. But, if you have a Conservative MP, you should write to them as well," she said.

Though Ghislain Picard of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador is pleased about the motion going before the House, he is still seeing shades of the past. "It's a very positive move on the part of the opposition parties to make sure that the declaration makes it to the House and that it gets a vote in the House, a positive majority vote and that is what happened. With that being said, we will remember that the same opposition parties made a lot of efforts in order to commit this government, the Conservative government, into implementing the Kelowna Accord. There again we had no difficulty and the House rose in a majority support of the Kelowna principals. And, there again the Conservatives said that they were supportive of the principals of this but it doesn't mean that they voted any funding along the lines of the Kelowna deal," he said.

When asked about the current land claims interference that the Conservatives keep arguing is keeping them from signing the declaration, Picard refuted the claim. "I could say that one of the major key arguments of the government is that somehow this concept of collective rights is interfering of this concept of individual rights. It has been stated time and again that a lot of articles of the declaration, at least a good dozen of them, refer to individual rights of indigenous people. So, to say that the declaration is in contradiction with this whole motion of individual rights is completely false. There again the argument about the Canadian government does not carry weight," said Picard.

The Liberal Party is also up in arms over the Conservative's refusal to sign the declaration. For Tina Keeper, Liberal MP for Churchill, a Manitoba Cree and former star of North of 60, the issue is personal. "There is this ongoing dynamic of blaming First Nations as though we have chosen to live in these dire circumstances," she said.

Though Keeper also will continue to bring the issue of the declaration up in Parliament, fighting for the rights of Aboriginal people in the House is still a difficult task when the ruling party won't take the issues seriously. "This is a really regressive government. It's a paternalistic government. I think that there is a Reform agenda which doesn't believe in special interest groups or special status of Aboriginal peoples. I think it is underlying in their decision-making on how to move forward," said Keeper.

Though all three opposition parties are going to continue to push the declaration until it is signed, the best recourse for Canadians to get it adopted is public pressure, which is not going to be easy as the national media has been ignoring the issue thus far. Already the Assembly of First Nations is calling for another day of action on May 29 with stepped-up pressure tactics and the NDP is calling on all Canadians to write the government. Without the support of the media however, it's only a matter of time before the Aboriginal peoples of this country will be back on the streets protesting, erecting blockades and taking every measure possible to be heard in a world that is seemingly deaf to their needs.

To share your feelings with Prime Minister Stephen Harper, email him at pm@pm.gc.ca or write him at:

Office of the Prime Minister
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NIMUSHUM, TELL ME ABOUT GUN SAFETY.
ABRAHAM, ASSUME EVERY FIREARM IS LOADED.
CONTROL THE MUZZLE DIRECTION AT ALL TIMES.
TRIGGER FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER
AND OUT OF THE TRIGGER GUARD.
SEE THAT THE FIREARM IS UNLOADED.
KEEP AND USE THESE TEACHINGS, NUUSHIMISH.
IYIYIYIU ASCHII, 2008. ABRAHAM WITH HIS SON...
ROBBIE, SHOW ME WHAT I TAUGHT YOU...
POINT THE FIREARM IN THE SAFEST DIRECTION.
REMOVE ALL AMMUNITION.
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EXAMINE THE BORE EACH TIME YOU PICK UP A FIREARM.
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay
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Wemindji Radio Boosts Signal

CHPH 99.7 FM Wemindji is increasing its directional ERP signal to 14,000 watts.

The improved transmission frequency will reach over 125 kilometres of the vast territory throughout the Cree Nation of Wemindji.

RTS Canada will act as project manager in CHPH's overhaul, which includes the addition of new studios to the station.

"Our community is growing quickly and it is important that the station grow too," said CHPH vice president Edward Georgekish.

Owned by the non-profit Wemindji Telecommunications Association, CHPH was first licensed by the CRTC over three years ago.

RTS Canada is a broadcast consulting service providing technical training, engineering and licensing services for cable, internet cable and radio.

"We are very proud of our long association with the community," emphasized RTS Canada president Hyman Glustein. "It is an important part of the James Bay territory, being the first Internet service north of Val d'Or and the first radio service to actively engage outside advertisers. We take pride in being associated with innovators and our commitment to community radio everywhere in Canada goes back over 35 years."

Cree leaders appointed to oversee $1.4 billion

Mathew Coon-Come, Billy Diamond, Ted Moses, Albert Diamond, Tania Pash, Robert Kanatewat and Philip Awashish have been named as the members of the Cree Trust.

The Cree Trust will oversee the administration of the $1.4 billion transferred from the federal government following the signing of the New Relationship Agreement with the Crees on February 26.

The seven members of the Cree Trust were appointed in a Council Board meeting of the Grand Council of the Cree, April 8-9.

The terms of the trustees, lasting between two and six years, will be determined at a future Council Board meeting.

Chicomputerimish

How can I type in Cree on my computer? How do I install the Cree typing tools on my new computer? How can I convert from Cree syllabics to Cree roman orthography and vice-versa?

Responses to these frequently asked questions can now be found in the form of training videos available in the resource section on the eastcree.org website.

With oral explanations in Cree, Patricia Diamond, from the Cree School Board, explains how to download, install and type Cree syllabics. Similar instructional videos are available in French and in English.

Step-by-step guidance is provided to download Typing and Conversion tools on Windows XP and for MS Word 2003. The video can be paused while following the various steps, or played again if needed.

The following videos are available:
How to Download Cree keyboard and fonts
How to Install Cree keyboard and fonts
How to use Cree keyboard and fonts
How to Install Conversion Tool
How to Use Conversion Tool
http://www.eastcree.org/Videos/index.html

Call for contributions to healing quilt

Alice Olsen Williams is asking people to send her quilt blocks.

She is creating a quilt to help Native communities across Canada heal from the devastating effects of residential schools.

"Each block is to be about what you want to express regarding residential schools. It can be about what you experienced, or can be about how you have compassion for what others of our peoples went through – whatever it is you want to share or express," said Olsen in her request for the quilt blocks.

The quilt will hang at the future National Research Centre on residential schools.

Anyone interested can participate by creating a square 13" by 13". Participants can use any design, materials or colours they choose, but must make sure the blocks can be added to the quilt. Olsen notes that photos or paint on stiff paper or canvas could also be used as they can be transferred to fabric and used in the quilt.

Olsen also asks that the following information be included with the squares: a long or short story explaining what the square is about; your name and address; your email address (if you have one); and your phone number so that she can inform you about the progress of the quilt and possibly a photo of the completed quilt.

Please send the squares to:
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Les Grands Prix du Tourisme québécois Desjardins 2008

By Will Nicholls

It was another first for the small community of Mistissini. The Grands Prix du tourisme québécois Desjardins 2008 came to town on April 3. Guest speakers included Andy Baribeau, councillor for the Cree Nation of Mistissini, Doris Thomassin, president of James Bay Tourism, Sherman Herodier, president of Eeyou Istchee Tourism, Luc Ferland, MNA for Ungava, Albert Diamond, president of Air Creebec, Gérald Lemoyne, president of the Conférence régionale des élus, and Louise Séguin of the Ministère du tourisme, to name a few.

The awards were given out at a gala featuring a meal by Cree Northern Catering Services. It was a beautifully done traditional Cree meal.

Three trophies awarded were designed by David Namagoose of Waskaganish.

The first prize was awarded by Albert Diamond who said the prize went to the 9th edition of the biggest fishing tournament in the province of Quebec, held at Lake Opemiska, about 10 km from the town of Chapais. The James Bay Walleye Tournament won for being a tourist event that works with a budget of less than $1 million yet it still gives out more than $110,000 in money and prizes. Dany Girard, president of the tournament, accepted the award.

The second category was "Lodging & Outfitting". It applies to persons who run a business and offer installations and hunting, fishing, trapping services, such as lodging, transportation, equipment rental, and guide services. Elijah Awashish accepted the award for Osprey Lodge located on Mistissini Lake.

Joshua Iseroff, one of the MC's, said, "The majestic Mistassini Lake welcomes you to its shores so you can experience the unique opportunity of fishing. And the Cree Nation guarantees an unbelievable outdoor experience! Clients who visit this outfitter have access to an exclusive territory situated above the 51st parallel. The rustic look combined with its modern amenities will ensure a comfortable and memorable stay. You will also be swayed by the layout of the camp with its First Nations architectural and cultural attractions all over the outfitter's site. Experienced First Nations guides share their stories, their appreciation, and their respect for this magnificent region with every client."

In the category "Food Services – Tourism Development" the winner was Restaurant Coq Rôti located in downtown Chibougamou. Owner Nelson Thibeault accepted the award.

Winners from the event will represent the James Bay/Eeyou Istchee region during the National Gala that will be held in Montreal's Palais des congrès on May 9.

They also have the privilege of being able to use the logo of "Winners of the Grands Prix" in their promotional literature. This logo is being used regionally to give tourists a "guarantee of quality and to reassure tourists in their choice during their visit in the region."

To be considered for an award, nominees must contribute to the overall improvement of their business' tourism offer and to Quebec as a destination for the industry. The promotions of their tourism product must be on a regional, national or international level.

As well as the awards they decided to give out merit awards this year. The first one went out to Robert Proulx. As the former director of Assinica Wildlife Reserve as well as those of Albanel, Mistassini and Waconichi lakes since 1970, he is the major reason that these reserves still exist today.

Raymond Thibault, from the Société de développement de la Baie-James, presented the second award to Suzanne Desgagnés of Air Creebec. Most clients will remember her warm smile and professionalism at the Air Creebec counter at Chibougamou airport.

Chibougamou Mayor Donald Bubar presented the third award of merit. Serge Huard, owner of the Auberge Le Relais du Lac Caché, accepted the award.

The last award was given out by Luc Ferland, MNA for Ungava. David Mianscum accepted the award. The Master of Ceremonies said Mianscum was "born and raised in the traditional lifestyle of the Cree people in Mistissini. He began his career as an outfitting guide at the age of 17. His knowledge of the land has helped him become recognized and well-respected amongst guests as well as his peers. The ability to work in the outdoors while also having the opportunity to meet new people are some of the reasons he enjoys having a career in outfitting. As an experienced guide, he also takes pleasure in being able to teach his skills to other aspiring guides and encourages more Cree youth to consider following the same path."

Let's learn about our land
Let's learn about ourselves

Let's learn about health in Iiyiyiu Aschii

Nituuchischaayihtitaau Aschii is a project to learn more about public health questions, like nutrition and environmental contamination.

This year, with the support of the local Band Councils, the project team will visit:

Waskaganish: May 26 - June 12, 2008

Chisasibi: June 13 - July 5, 2008

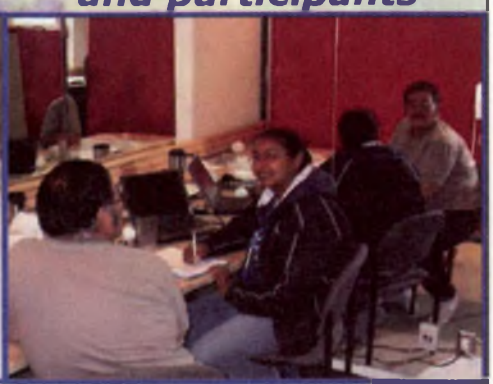
Community members will be invited to participate in the project to help find answers to these important questions.

The answers will help the Cree Board of Health set priorities for health promotion in your community.

mobile medical laboratory

activities for kids mix science and traditions

local interviewers and participants



IBKAMOON CORPORATION

Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

For more information, contact:
Reggie Tomatuk, CBHSSJB
(418) 770-9505 rtomatuk@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Covered by Love

Philanthropic endeavour creates quilts to warm hearts and bodies

By Steve Bonspiel

Hundreds of men, women and children living below the poverty line in 16 countries are a little warmer these days thanks to the Quebec Native Women's Ministries in Chapais and their Covered by Love project.

It was started in 2004 when six women got together to make quilts from recycled materials for needy individuals around the world.

Sandra Morton, Sectional Representative for the QNWM, came up with the idea after a 2001 visit to a small village in Malawi, Africa.

She was on a mission at the time, called the Warm Heart of Africa and she was appalled by the horrid living conditions.

"The average income in that area is less than $300 a year," she said. "It's very poor. I was overwhelmed by the poverty."

Morton said she was struck with an overwhelming desire to do whatever she could to help them out.

When her mother passed away in 2004, Morton said she felt closer to God. It compelled her to make a quilt through the newly formed Village of Hope Project and send it to Malawi.

Well-wishers also sent a donation in lieu of flowers in her mother's name – to the tune of $3000 –to Africa.

Morton said that she could sense the presence of God during that tough period in her life and it enabled her to focus on the positive side and look past the grief.

"By the end of the day we had two quilt tops made from recycled fabric," said Morton of the date the project started, February 12, 2004. "Nine months later we had 144 quilts made to send to Africa."

The project is becoming better known as materials to make the quilts are donated by locals as well as people from all over the country and different parts of the world.

Morton went to Siberia last year to give 37 quilts to needy individuals and she recently sent along another 47 to El Salvador to aid street kids.

In all, she and her throng of helpers have created hundreds of quilts, including a factory-like effort of 102 quilts since December 2007.

When one of their sewing machines broke down recently, Morton made a plea to the Cree Trappers Association and they cut a cheque for $350 to purchase a new commercial one.

Morton said many Cree women have helped, including 87-year-old Nanny Jolly from Mistissini who made 11 of those first quilts back in 2004.

The QNWM made 34 quilts for the hospital in Chibougamau. They also took 27 of the tattered or sub par quilts and made them into dog beds for the Chibougamau veterinarian.

Morton told a story of Sylvie, an Abenaki from Obedjiwan who was in a car accident last year. She is now in a wheelchair as the accident took away her ability to walk. She was able to choose her own blanket.

photo courtesy of Sandra Morton

Sandra Morton and Waswanipi's Mary-Ann Cooper and one of her quilts

Morton and friends also helped a young girl from Chapais who had a television fall on her head February 4. She is slated to be in the hospital for a year. The Ministry held a fundraiser for the girl and gave her the quilt of her choice.

"It's so incredible," she said. "It's like a miracle to see little pieces of fabric come together to make a quilt, but it's also a ministry of reconciliation because we have Native and non-natives working together and they are sisters. I think that is what this project is all about – reconciliation and healing."

Minnie Wapachee of Ouje-Bougoumou has been there from the start. She sees it as a way to give to those who need it the most.

"It was really good for me to go on this trip and deliver those first quilts that we made," Wapachee said of her trip to Africa in 2005. "There are so many things we take for granted over here and it's a totally different world in other countries like Malawi."

Wapachee was pregnant with her two-year-old son Silas at that time. Since his arrival she does not always have the time to play as big a part as she would like, but she participates when she can.

"It's gone beyond quilts," she said. "The latest project one of the ladies is working on is making bibs. It continues to grow as we go along."

Wapachee said sometimes she does not even see the quilt as it is being created by the team. She works on her own square at the same time as others and then the next thing they know, the quilt is completed.

"If anybody sees the need to help out in whatever area, whether it be this project or to volunteer to help other people, it's quite beneficial," she said. "Not just for other people, but for yourself as well. The work itself is very peaceful and it's fun to see how it helps others."

For more information on the project or to donate materials or to help sew, contact Sandra Morton at 418-745-2684 or ardnasmorton@yahoo.com

Assessing accountability

INAC introduces a new audit clause to keep First Nations in check

By Amy German

On March 31, Indian and Northern Affairs minister Chuck Strahl announced First Nations communities across Canada would be subject to a new audit clause which will be added to all 2008-09 funding arrangements, much to the dismay of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL).

When asked if there had been any previous problems with First Nations' accountability in terms of governance that would have prompted these new measures, INAC representative Margot Geduld was quite defensive. "I am not sure if you understand exactly what this is. This particular clause is in fact really just to clarify and strengthen INAC's ability to conduct audits of funding agreements. It's something that other departments and agencies have in place," she stated.

Throughout the rest of the interview Geduld responded only by reading from press releases that are available on the INAC website.

She continued, pausing when she lost her place in the document, "They (other agencies) often have more comprehensive audit-related clauses in place in agreements. As part of a response to the Office of the Auditor General regarding accountability, the clause will ensure transfer payments are used as intended. This particular clause is being put into place and will be an amendment in the subsequent agreements with First Nations."

When asked if other fiscal policies were being dropped as a result of this new audit clause, if error margins would be changing and what types of scenarios would prompt an audit, Geduld once again only responded with quotes from INAC's website.

"This particular process is going to give INAC the ability to conduct audits to ensure, as I was saying, that First Nations have the appropriate management, financial and administrative controls in place. The occasion to conduct an audit would arise under specific circumstances. These circumstances would possibly be requests by chief and council, information contained in the audited financial statements of First Nations and tribal councils, results of audits and evaluations, management practices reviews, and compliance reviews previously conducted by INAC," she read.

While Geduld remained evasive throughout the interview and kept repeating the same statements, AFNQL president Ghislain Picard had much more to say on the new audit policy.

When asked what he thought of INAC's new policy, Picard responded, "It's surprising that this government would try to discredit First Nation governments as if corruption was rampant in communities. It's unfair and unjustified that this government would go to such extremes."

Picard cited how back in 2003 the Auditor General, before the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, demonstrated "that a good 90% of First Nation governments had no difficulties and no problems related to fiscal accountability. This has been supported not only once but a number of times by the auditor general. And, it's been demonstrated that First Nation governments have been responding to the requests by the government, completely and adequately."

> AT THE SAME TIME, THIS GOVERNMENT IS CERTAINLY NOT LOOKING AT ITS OWN ACCOUNTABILITY TO FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES

The December 2002 Report of the Auditor General of Canada, titled Streamlining First Nations Reporting to Federal Organizations, stated, "First Nations reporting requirements established by federal government organizations are a significant burden, especially for communities with fewer than 500 residents. We estimated that at least 168 reports are required annually by the four federal organizations that provided the most funding for major federal programs."

The same report from the Auditor General also said, "We are concerned about the burden associated with the federal reporting requirements. Resources used to meet these reporting requirements could be better used to provide direct support to the community. Steps need to be taken to streamline reporting requirements. The current program structure established by federal organizations is an obstacle to reforming reporting requirements and needs to be reviewed."

When asked if INAC already had stringent audit procedures in place prior to the latest audit clause, Picard responded, "Certainly! If you look at Canada, there is probably an average of 60 different reports in any given year that are presented to the department. And to me that should explain the relationship that exists between the federal government and First Nation governments.

"But at the same time, this government is certainly not looking at its own accountability to First Nation communities which for us has to be put out there as well. It is because of the fact that, sadly, a lot of the funding arrangements contribute to the situation, where you have communities that are highly dependent on government subsidies. Yet, when it comes time for the Department of Indian Affairs to do its annual reporting, the information is passed on to the government and not to our communities. For us, this is certainly a contradiction."

Despite the AFNQL's disappointment with the enforcement of these audit clauses, the audits will continue as long as the Conservative Party is in power.

Unleaded shots

Cree Health Board campaigns to get hunters to use non-toxic shells

By Amy German

Just as Crees throughout Eeyou Istchee are gearing up to hit the bush for the 2008 goose break, a lot of talk has surrounded the use of lead shotgun shells despite the fact that they have been outlawed for over a decade.

The Cree Health Board (CHB) contacted *the Nation* recently in regards to its campaign to encourage the folks in the communities to switch from old-school lead shots to newer non-toxic ones, such as the steel, bismuth, copper or tungsten shots. Lead shots were banned in the late 90's because of the toxic effects that they have on humans, wildlife and the environment. The most common lead poisoning in birds is considered to be the result of ingestion of spent lead shots used for waterfowl hunting.

Dr. Elizabeth Robinson, a medical consultant at the CHB, said, "This is an issue about lead and we have been aware for about 10 years that the level of lead in some individuals has reached high-ish levels. So far nobody has gotten lead poisoning and most of them are not (on the verge). The government sets a level at which the blood lead has to be declared to the public health department and that level has gone down because even at these low levels there can be these subtle effects that are not frank. Like a child might not do as well as in school as he would if his blood level was lower. So the cut off is pretty low and we have been aware for about 10 years that there are people mainly in one Cree community that have high-ish levels.

"We know it's not much of a problem for the inland Cree communities as we did a specific study there. But we are not too sure about the other coastal communities, although there have never been any people with high levels declared, except one or two in the other communities."

While lead shotgun shells are still available in most communities' general and sporting-good stores as they are still legal to possess and legal for skeet shooting, they are not available in the rest of the province at regular retailers. Therefore it is up to the discretion of Cree hunters to choose whether to make the switch to the non-toxic version for the sake of their own health as the Cree communities are so expansive that it is unlikely that anyone would ever be penalized for hunting waterfowl with them.

Though the CHB had concerns about the use of lead shots, by the same token it could not stress enough how it is really not out to "harass" hunters nor discourage anyone from eating traditional game meat. "It's to protect the geese because they were dying from swallowing these lead pellets and lead is a highly poisonous metal even in small quantities. It's not like there is a level of lead you can have in your system, any amount is really not good," explained Robinson.

When the CHB contacted *the Nation* in regards to the lead issue, it was also concerned with how the communities would react when it came to its commenting on hunting practices to the extent that the Board was reluctant to mention which specific community had the lead issue. Thankfully the Cree Trappers Association (CTA) was also in the loop when it came to heightened lead levels in some individuals in Whapmagoostui.

Originally both the CHB and *the Nation* were under the assumption that some community members were presenting higher levels of lead in their systems due to lead shots used in goose hunting but Eastmain CTA representative Rick Cuciurean has his own theory. "If you are getting high lead levels like in Whapmagoostui, I would submit that it's probably from ptarmigan because they get a lot more of ptarmigan up there and some people are ingesting the lead with the ptarmigan."

Still, because lead is dangerous the CHB is looking to discourage the use of the shots altogether and will most likely be conducting various awareness campaigns such as skeet shooting with non-toxic bullets to encourage hunters to make the switchover. Though it is now common knowledge that lead shots are not the healthiest option, still, according to Paul Linton, a nurse and manager in the Public Health Dept of the CBH in Mistissini, some are still using them because they prefer their performance.

"Because the lead bullet is heavier, it takes more force to get it going and therefore it's slower and so you have to make an adjustment to aim if you are used to lead and switching over to steel. People who hunt a lot like the Crees, their aiming has become so automatic that they don't think about aiming, it's an automatic reflex. Now hunters have to relearn how to shoot and aim. And, when you think about the Elders, like think of some old man who is in his 50s who has been hunting for 40 years with lead shots, are we really going to try to get to retrain him to hunt with steel?" asked Linton.

At that the issue can be touchy for some hunters as Linton explained as, "Hunting is done mostly by men and men seem to have a fair amount of pride, especially in being able to hunt. So that I think makes it a big thing when it comes to how easily they will switch from lead to steel. I made the switch six or seven years ago but gee whiz, I paid for it too."

Since his switchover, Linton has fully regained his ability to hunt as have the majority of Cree community members who have taken the time to adjust to the switch.

For more information on why non-toxic shots are better for waterfowl, the environment and the health of Cree community members, go to http://www.dse.vic.gov.au/DSE/nrenrt.nsf/LinkView/1AB58A95BFA05A82CA25737600 1B78E64C0F4B06AF0C57A6CA25737600 1BAC10

ANNUAL CREE DAY CELEBRATIONS

May 27 & 28, 2008
Mistissini, Quebec

Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie
30 years ans 1978-2008

This year Cree School Board will be marking its 30th Anniversary!

On May 27, Cree Day/Annie Whiskeychan Day will be spent honouring our Cree heritage and culture through various activities hosted by each school. This is a proud day for our students and teachers who continue to work hard to prepare their activities for this grand event. This day will end with a night of Cree activities and dancing.

On May 28, the 30th Anniversary Day is reserved to honour our students; past, present and future.

If you are a student who completed high school, continuing education or vocational training in one of the Cree communities, or a post secondary graduate, we encourage you to contact Wanda Loon through the form available on our CSB website or through the form available in the Nation magazine. We want to honour each of our Cree School Board students, so please contact us if you are one of our many graduates.

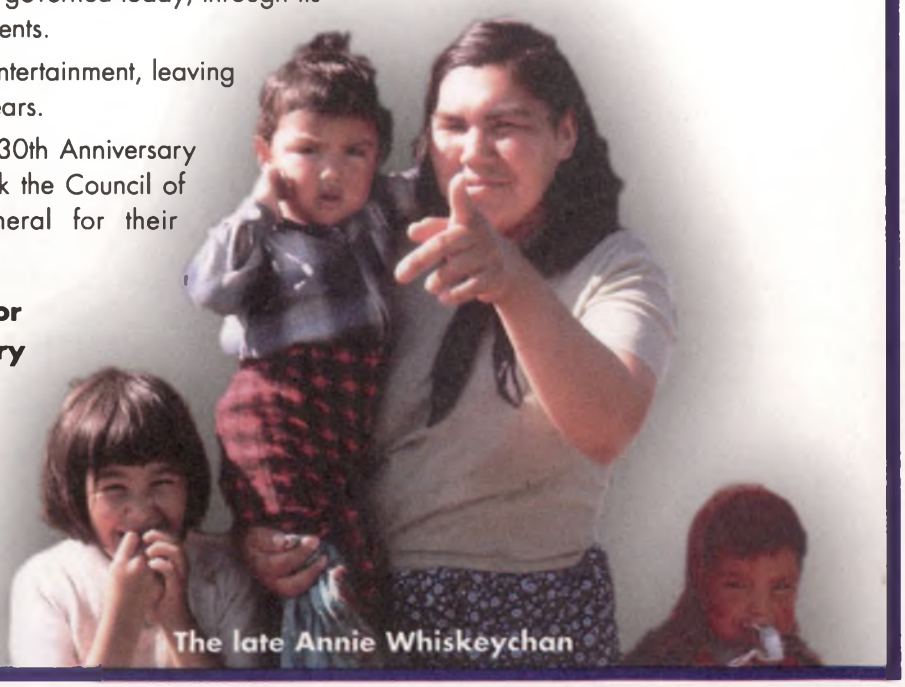
We will also have a special documentary screening which will provide our guests with a history of how the Cree School Board was established to how it is governed today; through its many challenges, struggles and achievements.

This day will end with a night of fun entertainment, leaving us all with memories to last another 30 years.

On behalf of the Cree School Board 30th Anniversary Planning Committee, I would like to thank the Council of Commissioners and the Director General for their continued support with this project.

Bella Mianscum, Project Coordinator
Cree School Board 30th Anniversary Planning Committee

For additional information, please feel free to contact us by email at ***emmamianscum@cscree.qc.ca***



The late Annie Whiskeychan

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire crie

Calling for all Cree School Board Graduates

"Honouring the Achievements of our Students!"

The Cree School Board is planning for its 30th Anniversary Celebrations for May 28, 2008 to be held in Mistissini, Quebec. We are researching all students who have graduated from high school, vocational and post secondary programs. We are planning to showcase all Cree graduates who were sponsored by the CSB and who have accomplished their educational endeavors in various disciplines. If you are a graduate, please email your contact information and picture to: **graduates@cscree.qc.ca or fax it to (418) 923-2020**.

Name: _____

Employer: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone #: _____

Fax #: _____

Email address: _____

Graduated from:	Year (s)	Institution(s)	Program (s)
High School	_____	_____	_____
Continuing Education	_____	_____	_____
College Diploma	_____	_____	_____
Vocational Program	_____	_____	_____
University	_____	_____	_____

If more than one, please list them according to the years.

For more information, please contact Wanda Loon at wloon@rogers.com fax: (613) 741-5033

SAVOURING THE DRINK

The annual Wine and Spirits Show offers a variety of tasty beverages

By Amy German

With literally thousands of choices of libation to sample from, the Montreal Wine and Spirits Show at the Palais de Congrès (March 27-30) was about enough to send any reviewer's head reeling long into the night and perhaps for days afterwards.

Between the 230 different exhibitors and the 2000+ products they were presenting from 30 different countries, there was hardly a moment for respite or modesty for the many distinguished professional wine tasters and sommeliers. To be fair, it was a hard call as literally half of the products on display were exclusive to the show and though many of the goods will eventually make their way to liquor-store shelves, with some items retailing in the hundreds per bottle, opportunity was knocking.

With that in mind, rather than going the practical route in trying to find lovely low-priced liquids that would compliment the sultry wild game and delicate fresh fish of the North, I thought of selecting products for special occasions instead and with that, lapped up the luxury.

Champagnes

When it comes to weddings, no beverage is more synonymous with the event than champagne and as the marital season slowly approaches, I thought to sample the finest in bubbly available at the event.

Arguably the best and probably most expensive champagne available at the Palais de Congrès during the salon was Boizel's Joyau de France. Effervescent and complex in flavour, this $125-a-bottle bubbly had lovely floral, fruity and spicy notes that gently tickled the palate. The Joyau de France is a sensational champagne that exudes sophistication.

The Charles Heidsieck Brut Reserve was suggested by sommelier Jossée Roberge, who was staffing the tables for wine distributor Maxximum. "This is a champagne. It's a 55% Pinot Noire and a Chardonnay and Pinot Marnier. It's a traditional method. It's very brut, and a bit mineral. I prefer it as an aperitif," she said. So, enjoy this delight before the meal.

The fine yet forceful bubbles in Champagne Alfred Gratien Brut Classique Sans Année were certainly memorable as were its delicate notes of citrus, mangoes, peaches and apricots. With a clear light-golden colour, this particular champagne would be most ideal on a warm day in the sun.

The Champagne Louis Roederer Brut Premier was a fruity, youthful breath of fresh air. Delicate and light with notes of almond and hawthorn, its creamy texture would go best with either white fish or seafood and would be ideal to drink at any time of the year.

Though Mumm Cuvée Napa Brut is not technically a champagne as the only wines that can carry the moniker are those from the Champagne region of France, Mumm has been in the business of making champagne for centuries. The Mumm Napa has a robust larger bubble and persistent effervescence that shows its true California spirit but on the palate it has all of the traditional trappings of champagne with a rose-petal aroma and complex flavour.

Pre-mixed drinks

When it came to products that were just days away from hitting S.A.Q. shelves, three new pre-mixed bottled drinks stood out: the new bottled José Cuervo Margarita, the Smirnoff Mojito and the Smirnoff Cosmopolitan. "These are our new products for spring/summer, they are ready-to-drink

products. Put them in a shaker and then pour them over ice," said Nancy, the barmaid at the booth.

All of the products tasted quite similar to their handmade competitors that are served in just about any downtown bar. However, the mojito was a bit peculiar without the traditional white rum. These three beverages would be ideal for those who feel bartending-challenged as they can simply be shaken or poured over ice and are a great way to impress company – provided you keep the bottles hidden.

If it's decked out completely in leopard velvet appearance does not leave an impression on you, Wild Africa Cream's light creamy texture and luxurious caramel flavour certainly will. This beverage possesses a remarkably light texture as cream liquors tend to be heavy but this one had a refreshing yet comforting quality. This new product should be on store shelves later this year.

On my travels through the crowded aisles of the Palais de Congrès I was happy to discover Chateau de Laubade Bas Armagnac, a delightful brandy that could give some of the world's best Cognacs a run for their money. Though lesser known than Cognac, and hailing from a neighbouring region in France, the prestigious Chateau de Laubade is one of the world's most renowned producers of Armanac. It varies from cognac in terms of its finesse, depth of flavour and dark, strong colour. Made from carefully selected grapes, Armagnac goes down surprisingly smoothly, and has distinct floral and dried fruit aromas.

Scotches

As there were enough wines to please any wine-lover's palate and aperitifs, elaborately mixed cocktails and novelty products enough to keep aficionados talking for months, the Wine and Spirits Show is like a Valhalla of sorts for Scotch lovers. Though it would have been difficult for any Scotch-man (or woman) to sample every Scotch on the floor and still navigate his/her way home, for those with a nose and a refined palate for "usquebaugh" (Scottish Gaelic for "water of Life"), it was the place to be.

Adding to the experience were various experts, there to guide the novices to their first samplings of finery and make helpful new product suggestions to the seasoned Scotch aficionados. Brian McQueenie of Edinburgh was kind enough to help me through his selection of Scotches and whiskeys at the Corby Distilleries table.

McQueenie's table featured Ireland's most famous whiskey, Jameson Irish whiskey, Jameson 12-year-old, and Redbreast, a new Irish whiskey to the Quebec market from the same company. When it came to the Scotch, however, McQueenie had some real gems. The Glenlivet 12-year-old Scotch stood along side the Oak reserve 15-year-old and 18-year-old also from Glenlivet, Chivas Regal, Chivas Regal 18-year-old, Chivas's 21-year-old Royal Salute, and a selection of fine products made by Aberlour that really stood out.

"The Aberlour A'Bunadh was the hit of the show. Many people were really surprised when they tasted it. For such a strong drink – 59.5% alcohol – it's surprisingly light tasting. It has a nutty, fruity, sherry taste. After you get passed the first sip, it's a nice, pleasant sipping drink," said McQueenie.

McQueenie, who also organizes and hosts Scotch-tasting events, had his own opinions on how to get to know the beverage. "The only real way to get a feel for it is through tastings and I really like to do those little tastings. It was only the experienced people that I was steering towards the Aberlour A'Bunadh. It's not a drink for a beginner or someone who has a light stomach."

For those unfamiliar with Scotch but have a piqued interest, McQueenie recommends The Glenlivit 12-year-old or the Aberlour 10-year-old. "I always recommend those two at our tastings because first of all The Glenlivit 12 is a light, refreshing Scotch and it's not too smoky. Both of them come from a region with the perfect condition for making Scotch. The water is soft, the peat isn't too strong and the temperature is pretty much the same all-year-round so the maturation happens pretty evenly over time."

McQueenie's beverage of choice – the coveted Highland Park 18 – was not even on his table but halfway across the exposition hall being presented by another distillery group. "To me Highland Park has an overall perfect balance. It's made in Orkney which is the highest distillery in Scotland. The water and the peat they use are unique to that area so it has a salty feel and the peat is strong but not overpowering. When they make the Scotch, they use beautiful sherry casks so there is a balance between the sherry, the peat and the smoke. I really enjoy the overall feel."

For those interested in contacting McQueenie for a Scotch tasting party or fundraising event, call 514-636-1136 or visit his website at www.ouidram.com

Moving away from McQueenie, there were many other Scotches around to be tasted, including the Glenfarclas 25-year-old single malt. This smooth, full-bodied and well-sherried style Scotch, devoid of a heavy peat taste, is a fine quality beverage. At the same time, with a bottle of Glenfarclas going for $173, it is hard to imagine it displeasing the palate of any Scotch enthusiast.

Not to be left out, there was also a fine selection of Bowmore Islay single-malt Scotches available at the show. The Bowmore distillery is one of Scotland's oldest, having opened in 1779. On display at the show were Bowmore Islay and the 12-, 15-, 18- and 25-year-old vintages. As it is always quite how a Scotch can change in flavour as it is aged, the Bowmore Islay and Bowmore Islay 12 both had notes of lemon with hints of honey though the sweetness was more prominent in the younger Scotch. Its "teen" vintages on the other hand, the 15 and 18, both had a smoky-sweet nose with notes of caramel and chocolate with the caramel tones being more prominent in the complex 18-year-old. The prized Bowmore 25-year-old on the other hand featured an intense sherry bouquet with mellowed hazelnut and toffee notes. Simply exquisite!

With all of that said, the dizzying corridors of Palais de Congrès began to blur together after a few hours of "reviewing," so much so that it's almost a relief that this event only happens once a year.

SM*i*

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Labo SM inc. is required to recruit people between now and May 19, 2008 and train them in Inspection and Quality Control for the construction of dams, power stations and dykes for hydroelectric projects, namely «Eastmain-1-A /Sarcelle/Rupert»

The training courses will be assumed by the «Centre d'études collégiales à Chibougamau» and will last about a year with a three months on site training period during the 2008 season. After the training, the recruited staff will be assigned to the Eastmain-1-A Sarcelle/Rupert
project for the season of 2009 and possibly 2010.

Important: The training will be given in French.

Requirements:
- Secondary V - Diploma or very good aptitudes for sciences
- Appropriate knowledge of French language (very important)
- Salary and work condition according to SEBJ pay standards.

Interested applicants may submit their curriculum vitae by mail, fax or e-mail as soon as possible since training is expected to begin on May 19, 2008.

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Cell : (418) 770-9596
e-mail : mmianscum@chrd.ca

For further information on this job opportunity, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Route 167

Votre article concernant la mobilisation sur la route 167 (Vol. 15, Issue 10) est honnête et reflète exactement mes propos confiés lors de l'entrevue du 13 mars. Pour faire un suivi du dossier, je voulais vous informer que le conseil de bande de Mistissini a adopté une résolution d'appui (2008-77A) à notre cause lors de sa réunion du 17 mars.

Recevez mes salutations

Réjean Girard

Porte parole

Groupe d'action pour la sauvegarde de Chantiers Chibougamau

Your article concerning the demonstration on route 167 (Vol. 15, Issue 10) is honest and reflects exactly what I said in the March 13 interview. To follow-up, I wanted to inform you that the Mistissini band council has adopted a support resolution (2008-77A) for our cause during the meeting that took place on March 17.

Sincerely,

Réjean Girard

Spokesperson

Groupe d'action pour la sauvegarde de Chantiers Chibougamau

Build The School

Every child has a right to shelter, food and education (Vol. 15, Issue 10). Chuck Strahl is wrong, our kids are more valuable than any dollar sign next a politician's pay-cheque.

If the federal government sits back, then all communities should take action in building a new school for the children. We, as a nation, need each other and most importantly, we need our children as much as they need us.

Build The School!

Nian Cheechoo

Mushrooms

The news that someone in Mistissini has started to market mushrooms (Vol. 15, Issue 9) means I will probably have to stop telling one of my favourite stories about the late, lamented Billy Bearskin. One day during the shooting of "Job's Garden" in 1972 I was wandering through the bush with Billy, saw some mushrooms and asked him, "Do you ever eat mushrooms?" His reply: "We never get that hungry!" Can Cree hunger be greater now?

Incidentally, allow me to congratulate *the Nation*, which is improving, issue after issue, and now carries the kind of information that is invaluable in the building and consolidation of the Cree Nation. Any organization that receives a billion-dollar cheque needs an independent, critical observer to keep it on the straight and narrow, *the Nation* is increasingly fulfilling that function, at the same time performing a valuable educational function in instructing the Crees about the fundamental importance of a free press, and of the rather sophisticated values of transparency, information flow, and responsible criticism.

Boyce Richardson

Ottawa

DID YOU KILL THE FIRST GOOSE OF THE SEASON IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

HAVE ANY HUNTING STORIES OR PHOTOS TO SHARE?

DID YOU GET YOUR FIRST GOOSE EVER?

Let *the Nation* know and we'll let the Cree world know.

Please include photos if possible.
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HAPPY GOOSE HUNTING FROM ALL OF US AT *THE NATION!*

CRTC

Broadcasting Notice of Public Hearing CRTC 2008-3

Notice of consultation and hearing

The Commission will hold a public hearing commencing on 3 June 2008 at 9:30 a.m., at the Fort Garry Hotel, 222 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba to consider the following application. Deadline for submission of interventions/comments: **8 May 2008.**

- **Club Social la Grande** – Licence application for a radiocommunication distribution undertaking – Camp Rupert, Quebec

For further information, please consult Notice of Public Hearing **CRTC 2008-3.** If you wish to support or oppose an application or obtain a copy of the Notice of Public Hearing, please consult the CRTC website at www.crtc.gc.ca under "Public Proceedings" or call our toll free number 1-877-249-CRTC. Any information you submit, including personal information, will be posted on the CRTC website.

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission

Avis d'audience publique de radiodiffusion CRTC 2008-3

Canada

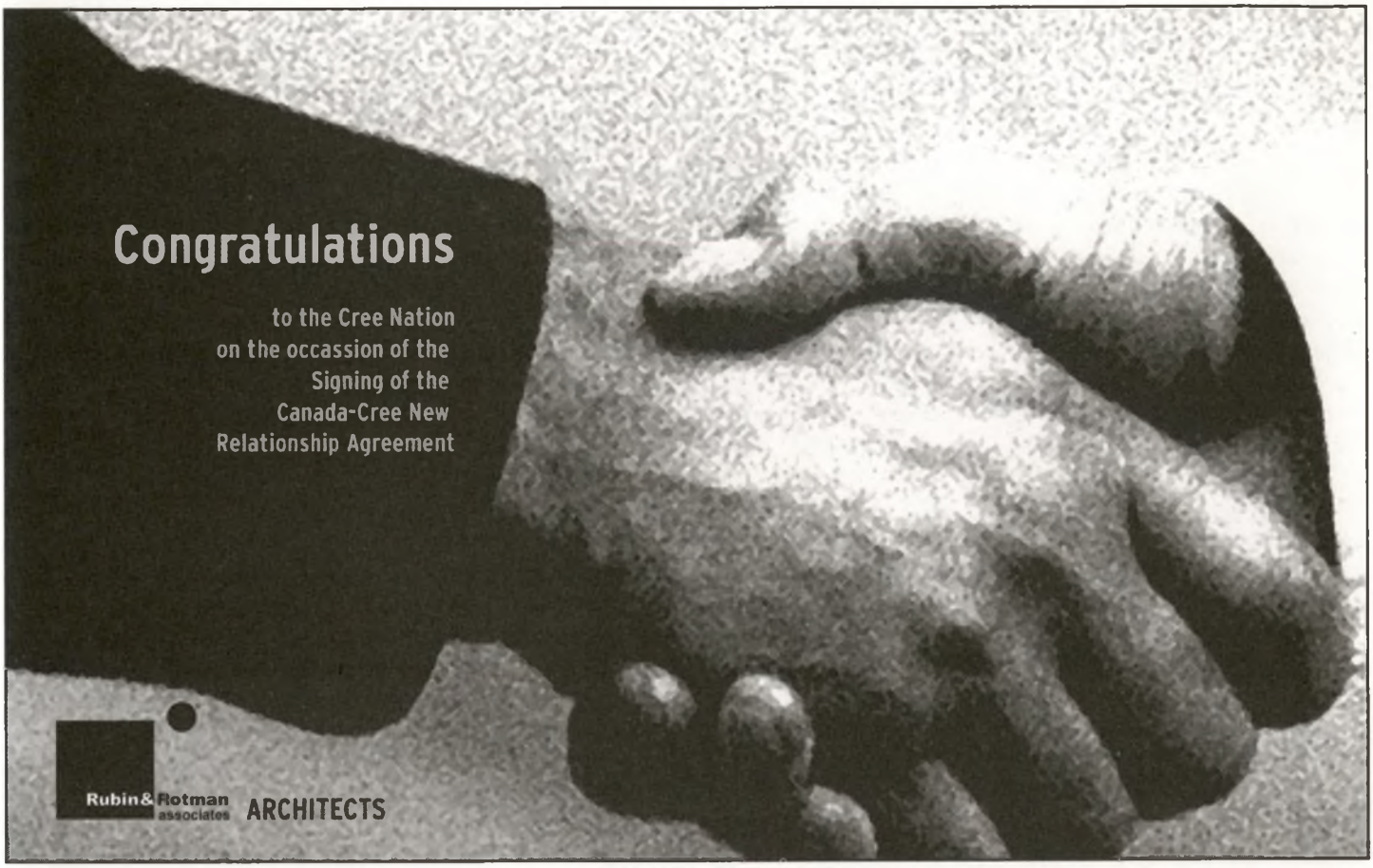
Avis de consultation et d'audience

Le Conseil tiendra une audience publique à partir du 3 juin 2008 à 9h30, à l'Hôtel Fort Garry, 222, avenue Broadway, Winnipeg (Manitoba), afin d'étudier la demande suivante. Date limite pour le dépôt des interventions/observations : **8 mai 2008.**

- **Club Social la Grande** – Demande de licence d'une entreprise de distribution de radiocommunication – Campement Rupert (Québec)

Pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter l'avis d'audience publique **CRTC 2008-3.** Si vous désirez appuyer ou vous opposer à une demande ou obtenir une copie de l'avis d'audience publique, veuillez consulter le site Web du CRTC au www.crtc.gc.ca à la section « instances publiques » ou appelez le numéro sans frais 1-877-249-CRTC. Toute information que vous soumettrez, incluant tout renseignement personnel, sera disponible sur le site Internet du CRTC.

Conseil de la radiodiffusion et des télécommunications canadiennes



EMPLOYMENT

POSITION: Head Chef

TERM: Full-Time (six month's probation)
SALARY: According to Qualifications, Experience & Budget
DUTIES: As Per Listed (but not limited to)

Requirements

The successful candidate will have:
- Secondary V, with chef's training or equivalent work experience to be considered as a definite asset;
- good cooking and meal planning skills;
- an excellent ability to work well and calmly under pressure;
- an ability to work independently and as part of a team;
- good organizational skills as well as people management and communication skills;
- The ability to speak Cree and English, with knowledge of French to be considered as an asset.

Duties

Reporting to the Manager and the Assistant Manager, the Head Chef is responsible for overseeing the operations of the kitchen and kitchen staff. Specific tasks include, but are not limited to:
- supervising and preparing work schedules for cooks and dishwashers/cook helpers, and ensuring that cooks rotate shifts on the "frontline", "daily specials", "breakfasts/brunches" and "desserts";
- arranging replacement workers in the event of absences;
- planning and pricing well-balanced menus, and reviewing same on a regular basis according to seasonal availability and costs;
- ensuring equipment is fully functional and in a good state of repair;
- ensuring the kitchen area is always kept in a clean and orderly state and that staff maintain excellent hygiene standards;
- verifying daily food checklist;
- verifying food quality on a daily basis, such as checking "best before" dates and ensuring refrigerated food is rotated correctly (i.e. using older ingredients first);
- overseeing efficient use of ingredients;
- ordering food and kitchen supplies;
- instructing, overseeing, and helping staff in the preparation, cooking, garnishing, and presentation of food;
- providing assistance and feedback to cooks on "daily special" planning;
- assisting Management in the selection of new kitchen staff and in the evaluation of existing staff;
- reporting offences under the Personnel Policy to Management;
- Other tasks that may from time to time be assigned by the Manager or Assistant Manager as the case may be.

P.O. Box 360, Waskaganish, Quebec, J0M-1R0, info@kanio-kasheelodge.ca, tel: (819) 895-2005 fax: (819) 895-2008

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

To save a life

by Xavier Kataquapit

Survival was a difficult reality of life for my people, the James Bay Cree, over the centuries. Even after the arrival of Europeans to the James Bay coast, people still relied on skill, traditional knowledge and a great deal of luck in order to survive in the wilderness. There were many difficulties that people had to face including finding food sources and locating wood for fuel and shelter. Our Elders taught us many of these skills and passed on the knowledge of where to find the things we needed in order to survive. All these skills were paramount to survival in any situation but one in particular stands out in my memory. It was all about safety.

We all understand the need to be careful around knives, axes or any other sharp objects. There are many guides on how to safely handle a rifle or shotgun. Keeping safe around firearms or sharp tools was an important lesson that our parents and Elders reinforced when my siblings and I were growing up back home. The regular chore of chopping wood was undertaken by all of us but only after we were warned about the dangers involved and under the watchful eyes of our parents. It was one thing to make a mistake and get hurt in the community but if something serious happened out on the land that was a big problem. Out on the land there is often nobody to turn to for help. A wound that would not be thought of as dangerous or serious in a modern hospital is considered life threatening in the wilderness. Without modern medicines or skilled people to treat those with injuries, there is danger of developing illness and infection if anything serious should happen.

Recently, I had the opportunity to spend some time with my parents and we had the pleasure to visit with my father's cousin Peter Kataquapit in Timmins. Whenever these two cousins get together, I feel like I am given a window to an ancient way of life on the James Bay coast. Their stories are filled with facts and events mixed together with legend and tradition. Their tales also describe a world where life was much different than what it is today.

On this recent occasion they told me a story of an accident out on the land. They recalled a time long ago when my grandfather James Kataquapit, a First World War veteran, was spending time near Winisk on the Hudson Bay coast. He was hunting when he heard the hysterical cries of a young boy. He found the child standing over the body of his father, who was bleeding from a terrible wound to his arm. My grandfather quickly realized that the father had mishandled his shotgun and somehow had fired a round into his arm. The boy was sent back to camp to find help while my grandfather assisted his bleeding father. As a war veteran, my grandfather had received first aid training in the army and he knew what to do in order to save the man's life. He dressed the victim's arm and created a tourniquet to stop the bleeding. Once the wound was treated, it took several days travelling to reach Fort Albany in the south to find proper medical assistance. The man was taken in by missionaries and nuns who treated his wound. Unfortunately, due to the amount of time it took to receive treatment and the seriousness of the injury the result was that his arm had to be amputated.

In another story, my father and Peter recalled a middle-aged man was accidentally injured inside a wigwam by a sharp metal tool that dug into his thigh. It was not a serious cut that caused much bleeding but the tip of the metal object broke off when it struck bone and it became lodged inside the poor fellow's leg. Due to the remoteness of the location it took several days to travel to the nearest fur trading post where he received some degree of treatment. By this time, infection had set in and it was too far-gone to save the man's leg from amputation. To save his life the local people had to cut off his leg. In spite of his amputation this fellow continued to lead a traditional life on the land. Many Elders remember him for his determination and strength. Although he only had one leg he continued to snowshoe and he hunted and trapped on the land. To do so in the deep winter snow he strapped on a snowshoe to his foot and he used two smaller snowshoes on poles to support himself. It was never very difficult to find this fellow's trail in the snow due to the very different snowshoe prints left in his wake. One was large and two were small.

Although today we have modern medical facilities in Attawapiskat the Elders still promote safety on the land. They know very well that any little accident in the middle of nowhere can suddenly become a life-and-death situation. The Elders caution us to avoid hurrying and rushing when moving on the land. They encourage us to think about our movements and actions in remote areas. Many people will not be lucky enough to have someone like James Kataquapit arrive on the scene of an accident with suitable knowledge to save a life.

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHS

Congratulations to Nikki Namagoose and Sylvester Weapinicappo on the birth of their baby boy, Odell Rylan Bertie Namagoose born on April 1st, 2008. Anjebaw..Braydon's little buddysh! Best wishes from Abel, Velma, Bryanna, Braydon and baby Tianna. See you all soon!

BIRTHDAYS

I would like to wish Happy 67th Birthday to my daddy cool Isaiah Masty in Whapmagoostui. I want to thank you for being there for me and my kids, especially when you take good care of them, when I was not there for them. From now on, I won't ever get tired of taking care of you, when my mom goes out of town. You have supported me a lot, when I wanted to turn my life around to be a sober mom! Thank you. I will always be there for you. You're simply the best! Love you, Dad! Your daughter, Lizzie (Whapmagoostui).

Happy 74th birthday to my Grandma, Lucy Rupert (Whap), and many more years to come. Love you lots, Grannie! From Lizzie, Tommy, Vicky, Leroy and Martina.

Birthday wish going out to our adorable baby girl Carlene Alicia Hope Ottereyes, already turning 2 on April 12, 2008. We love you very much my baby girl. From: Mommy, Daddy and your sisters Toronna and Lianne Ottereyes. xoxoxo

I would like to take this time to wish a Happy 5th Birthday (April 20) to a special little guy in my life... Deyon Darian House! Remember I always think about you, and I'll always will. I hope your day is as special as you are... I miss you lots, Love You Little Guy! Catherine Washipabano

Birthday wishes going out to Katie Stewart on April 20!! Happy 2nd Birthday little lady! Owah already 2 yrs old eh...Time flies by so fast! Hope you had tones of fun!! Ur God-Mother Catherine and Girls Jocelyne & Sienna!

I'd Like to say happy birthday to my cousin Rocky...Happy Birthday man...Sorry I didn't really visit while I was in Waswanipi...Next time I will...well hope u have a great day...Take care...Miss ya...Love Trista and Joey-lynn...

Happy belated birthday to my love Christopher Stephen. He celebrated his 37th birthday on April 8, 2008. I want him to know, that I really love him and I really enjoyed waking up with you every morning. You bring sunshine to my life and to our kids lives. You bring laughter, happiness, love, and most of all...you make me feel loved by you! I love you always & forever love: Natasha Happyjack xox.

I would like to wish a BIG Happy Birthday to Ecomet Visitor on April 23rd, 2008. From your namesake.

We would like to wish a Happy 1st Birthday to a lovely little girl on April 21st, 2008. We hope you have a wonderful time on your Birthday, Billie-Kaye Blackned. From us at 12 Hilltop Drive.

Happy month-apart-belated birthday to my unicorn, HayleyAnn Gee! (emo in training!). lol unicorn. lol I love u soOoOoOo much! lol. Anyways, bye dude. Love (as a friend), Suzanne.

Wishing Mr. Jesse Ronald Blacksmith a Happy Birthday on the 17th of April. Still looking good there honey and believe me, you haven't aged a bit. I love you and I love spending every waking moment with you. Love you always...Rachel Mats.

I just wanna wish my cousin/sister Tori Crowe a happy belated birthday on April 1st..lol hope your day was fun I miss you "sis". I miss you Sonia Crowe, you've been more than a cousin to me. You've been my sister & there's no possible way to thank you. See you soon! :) anyways see u soon. Love & prayers, hb4l* Suzanne;)

On 29th of April, my daughter Faith will be celebrating her 8th birthday "Happy 8th Birthday" Faith D. Bosum. We love you and many more birthdays to come. Love: Mom, Dad

EXPECT A PAY RAISE!

Effective May 1, 2008, the Government of Québec is increasing the general minimum wage rate

by $0.50 an hour

This historic increase will enhance the purchasing power of 254,000 workers.

The new minimum wages are as follows:	
General rate	$8.50 an hour
Employees receiving tips	$7.75 an hour

To obtain information on labour standards, consult our Web site or call toll free the Service des renseignements of the Commission des normes du travail.

www.cnt.gouv.qc.ca

Montréal area:
514 873-7061
Elsewhere in Québec, toll free:
1 800 265-1414

Commission des normes du travail
Québec

& Casey Bosum. P.S. Happy belated Birthday to my husband John Bosum (was on April 3rd). Once again happy happy to both of you, k.

The day you were born, the day of paradise; When bloom smiles charmingly; Says happy birthday to you; Fragrant blossom of spring; When the stars twinkle, twinkle; Says happy birthday to you; Dazzling Pearl; When the sky wears a rainbow; Says happy birthday to you; The queen of colors; when the Coocoo sings melodious; Says happy birthday to you; The sweetest of rhythms; when the heart prays of peace; Says happy birthday to you; the princess of hearts; When the soul slumbers soundless; Says happy birthday to you; the dream of dawn. Happy Birthday to my daughter and big sister, Taneshia Shannon W. Cooper, April 12, 2006. Love always and forever! Mamii Patricia Wapachee, and your little sister, Kandice W. Cooper, xoxoxo

I wanna wish a happy birthday to my son, Aaron Happyjack on April 21. Hope you'll have a special day on your birthday as special as you are. I'm so proud of you. You mean the world to me. I love you my son, and I'm always here for you. Your mom in Waswanipi.

Birthday wish going out to my godfather, Calvin (Aboysh) Gull on April 30. Many more heading your way, enjoy your special day. Love ya, antoine Jossie Belanger.Hey Aboysh, wanna wish a happy 23rd birthday on April 30. Still today I remember you when you were a baby and look at you now, you're bigger and badder than me. Lol.

ANNIVERSARIES

I would like to wish Happy 16th Anniversary to a Whapmagoostui couple, my sister Whiya and her man, Edwid Kawpit, on April 20, 1992. Have fun, but not too much fun. It's nice to have your anniversary at camp, especially at this time of year, spring time, nice, warm, and shining days. On and offs? From your maid of honour and your number 1 sis, Liz Masty.

PERSONAL MESSAGES

I just wanna say thank you to Alice & Tony Petawabano. You've been there for me, walked all the way to where I am right now & there's no possible way in this world I can thank you for that. I love you sooo much. I could write a million chapters & it still wouldn't be half as much as I love you. Alice, you've been like my second mom & I thank you. You played an important role in my life. Tony, you've been supporting me to hang on & look where I am right now. I can't think of any words to tell you how much I love you! All I wanna say is "thank you for everything". Love & prayers, Suzanne (Mist.)

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

I would like to wish a "Happy Mother's Day!!" to my mother, Winnie Happyjack (Was) and to all my sisters: Lily Gull (Was), Flora Ottereyes (Was), Charlotte Kwanibanes (Thunderbay), Sophie Bosum (OJ), Anna Trapper (Mist), and my baby sister Daisy Brien (Mist), and to all my nieces, too. Enjoy your day to the fullest, girls!!! As you all deserve it!! Just sit back and relax and get your men to pamper and spoil you totally!! Love each and every one of you and miss you, too!! Your loving brother, Danny, all the way from Val-d'Or.

Sending a very special "Happy Mother's Day!!" to the women in my life which are my loving, caring Mom, Janie Mark (Senneterre), to my one and only beautiful sister, Sue (OJ), who's always hard at work being the best mother she can be to her children; to my one and only beautiful daughter, Sabrina Lynn (Was) who's forever my "little" baby girl, and last of all to my best friend for life, Kathleen (Val-d'Or). She is one smart girl, someone I can run to for advice on anything!! I thank God for having such wonderful women, knowing that they love and accept me for who I am, and that I love them just as much and I know that they will always be there for me!! Love always, Flora.

To all my Aunties: Charlotte Petawabano, Beatrice & Nellie Petawabano, Eva Meskino, Agnes Petawabano and last of all, Alice MacLeod who all live in Mistissini. I miss each and every one of you. I want to take the time to wish each one of you a very special "Happy Mother's Day" and enjoy your day, by sitting back and doing nothing at all, promise??!! This also goes out to all my cousins who are mother!! Love: Flora M.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Kid's Help Phone Line: 1-800-668-6868 (www.kidshelpphone.ca)
Youth helpline: 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)
Parent helpline: 1-800-361-5085 (www.parenthelpline.ca)
Drugs: help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca)
Gambling: help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.info-reference.qc.ca)
S.O.S. Conjugal Violence: 1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)
Health and Sexuality resources center: 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm) (www.criss.org)
Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)
The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688. (www.nwsm.info)

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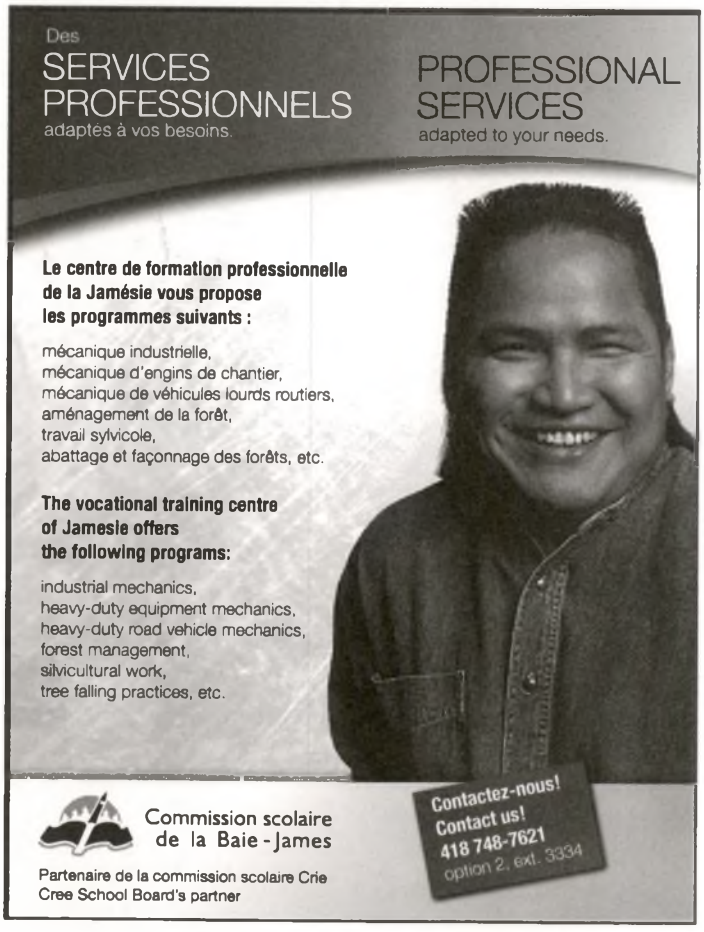

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Grands PRIX du Tourisme Québécois

LES GRANDS PRIX DU TOURISME QUÉBÉCOIS 2008

Desjardins 2008

BONNE CHANCE À NOS 3 LAURÉATS QUI NOUS REPRÉSENTERONT AU GALA PROVINCIAL DES GRANDS PRIX DU TOURISME QUÉBÉCOIS LE 9 MAI PROCHAIN À MONTRÉAL

CONGRADULATIONS TO OUR LAUREATES, THEY WILL REPRESENT THE REGION DURING THE NATIONAL GALA THAT WILL BE HELD IN MONTREAL ON MAY 9TH, 2008

Festival du doré Baie-James
James Bay Walleye Fishing Tournament
Festivals et événements touristiques – Budget d'exploitation de moins de 1 million $
Festivals and tourist events – Operating budget under $1 million

Restaurant Le Coq Rôti
Restauration – Développement touristique
Restaurants – Tourist development

Pourvoirie Aigle Pêcheur
Osprey Lodge
Hébergement – Pourvoiries
Lodging : Outfitters

Lors de cette soirée quatre mentions spéciales ont été remises ; monsieur Robert Proulx pour son implication dans le milieu, madame Suzanne Desgagnés pour la qualité de son accueil, monsieur Serge Huard pour son investissement à l'Auberge Le Relais du Lac Caché, monsieur David Mianscum pour l'ensemble de ses réalisations.

During the night four distinctions have been given ; Mr. Robert Proulx for this undeterred devotion to his milieu, Mrs. Suzanne Desgagnés for the quality of her welcome, Mr. Serge Huard for his investment in the Auberge Le Relais du lac Caché, Mr.David Mianscum for a life time achievement.

tourisme Baie-James

Tourisme Eeyou Istchee
Eeyou Istchee Tourism

© Mathieu Dupuis

Développement économique, Innovation et Exportation Québec
Avec la participation de :
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